Survey Related to Performance of Overseas Joint Ventures

1304. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted a survey relating to the performance of overseas joint ventures of Indian Firms;

(b) if so, whether the analysis revealed that the returns on the outflows have not matched the projections made at the time of setting up of the joint ventures; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remove the weaknesses of Indian joint ventures abroad?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Although functioning of Indian JVs abroad has resulted in net inflows of foreign exchange, a recent analysis of some larger Indian JVs revealed that repatriation projections made at the time of application have not been fully met by actual performance.

(c) In order to promote Indian JVs abroad, and to facilitate their operation, Govt. have liberalised the procedures for establishment of Indian JVs and introduced greater flexibility in their functioning.

Setback to MMTC

1305. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) wheher the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has received a set-back in its international trade after trade liberalisation; and

(b) what steps are being taken to improve ihe performance of the MMTC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Consequent to the decentralisation of import and export of a number of items which were calised through MMTC, the turnover of the Corporation has shown a declining trend.

The Corporation has sought to offset the steep declining in turnover by (i) consolidation of business in existing lines (ii) diversification of products and market for exports, import and domestic trade (iii) creation of captive sources of supply for exports (iv) increasing sales promotion measures and (v) rationalisation and cost control.

Alternative to ESI Scheme

£ 1306. SHRI AHMED MOHAMMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Gujarat has taken up with the Central Government the issue of implementing an alternative to Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIS);

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has pointed out to the Central Government that there had been large number of complaints against poor service rendered by the ESI Scheme;

(c) if so, whether State Government of Gujarat has suggested to the Central Government an alternative Scheme to the ESIS which could be used for better service to the persons covered under the Scheme; and

(d) what is the Central Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a proposal from the Anklashwar Industries Association suggesting an alternative Scheme for the Anklashwar area has been received by the ESI Corporation through the Government of Gujarat. The proposal is under examination of the ESI Corporation.

ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries in Maharashtra and Gujarat

1307. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of E.S.I. Hospitals and Dispensaries functioning in the State

£ Previously Unstarred Question 443, transferred from 7th December, 1993.

of Maharashtra and Gujarat district-wise as on 31st October, 1993;

(b) what is the number of major hospitals among them and what facilities are available in these major hospitals;

(c) the number of doctors and other special experts working is these major hospitals;

(d) whether there are any vacancies of the specialised doctors in Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(e) what is the number of dispensaries without doctors in Maharashtra and Gujarat; and

(f) what steps are being taken to improve the functioning of dispensaries and hospitals all over the country particularly in Gujarat and Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Difficulties faced by the Workers of Co-operative Societies

1308. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about difficulties being faced by workers of co-operative societies in getting permission to revive sick industrial units;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether Government propose to set-up a Central Agency to examine such proposals of workers' societies for their speedy clearance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) According to the sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, it is mandatory for management of a sick industrial company (large and medium) industries employing more than 50 persons and included in the first schedule to the industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Revival of sick industrial companies through workers' cooperative is one of the measures envisaged under the Act. Proposals of workers for revival of sick industrial companies, whenever received, are considered on merits by the BIFR. Ministry of Labour as a matter of general policy does encourage, infer alia, rehabilitation schemes through workers' cooperatives. Industry-wise Tripartite Committees have resolved that at the enterprise level, the management and employees could get together and formulate rehabilitation proposals and bring up the same for consideration by the respective committee. Such proposals can also be cooperative based ones. So far no proposal of Workers' cooperatives for taking over sick industrial units in pursuance of these deliberations has been received.

Loss of Mandays

1309. SHRI MOHAMMEDBHAI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any Survey regarding loss of mandays in various States during 1992-93;

(b) if so, whether the State of West Bengal has stood first in loss of mandays and the State of Gujarat was lowest;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons for the loss of mandays in various States of the country; and

(d) what efforts are being made by Government to reduce these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) Labour Bureau collect information on mandays lost due to strikes, lockouts etc. According to available information, mandays lost in the State of West Bengal was the highest during 1992 and 1993 (Jan—Sept). Mandays lost was not lowest in Gujarat considering the total